

Message Text

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PAGE 01 QUEBEC 00168 232054Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10
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P 182245Z MAY 78
FM AMCONSUL QUEBEC
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1344
INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY
AMCONSUL MONTREAL PRIORITY

UNCLAS QUEBEC 168

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, CA
SUBJECT: PRESS REACTION TO LEVESQUE APPEARANCE IN NEW YORK

REF: QUEBEC 0162

1. QUEBEC'S PRESS GENERALLY GAVE PAGE ONE TREATMENT TO RENE LEVESQUE'S APPEARANCE BEFORE THE COUNCIL ON FOREIGN RELATIONS (CFR) IN NEW YORK YESTERDAY (MAY 17), BUT HAD LITTLE OF SUBSTANCE TO WRITE SINCE SPEECH WAS GIVEN BEHIND CLOSED DOORS AND AUDIENCE STUCK TO CFR GROUND RULES ABOUT NOT SPEAKING TO PRESS. MONTREAL STAR, LA PRESS, AND LE DEVOIR ALL SENT REPORTERS TO COVER LEVESQUE'S VISIT.

2. IN ABSENCE OF ANYTHING MEATY TO REPORT, NEWSPAPERS RESORTED TO COMMENTS REGARDING "CORDIALITY" OF LEVESQUE'S RECEPTION THIS TIME AROUND AS OPPOSED TO HIS EARLIER APPEARANCE IN NEW YORK BEFORE THE ECONOMIC CLUB LAST YEAR. PREDICTABLY, SOME PAPERS PLAYED UP FACT THAT LEVESQUE, AS USUAL, RAN OVER HIS ALLOTTED SPEAKING TIME THEREBY CUTTING INTO THE QUESTION PERIOD (MONTREAL GAZETTE HEADLINED "LEVESQUE RUNS OVER NEW YORK SPEECH SCHEDULE"). MOST PAPERS CONTENTED THEMSELVES SIMPLY WITH QUOTING LEVESQUE TO EFFECT THAT HE HAD SIMPLY "BROUGHT THE AMERICANS UP TO DATE ON WHAT WAS GOING ON IN
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QUEBEC."

3. LA PRESSE NOTED IN PASSING THAT THE CFR WAS A PRESTIGIOUS AMERICAN FORUM WHICH INCLUDED IN ITS MEMBERSHIP "HENRY KISSINGER, ZBIGNIEW BRZEZINSKI, THE THREE BROTHERS ROCKEFELLER, AND THOMAS ENDERS, UNITED STATES AMBASSADOR TO CANADA," BUT NOTED THAT "NONE OF THESE STARS OF AMERICAN POLITICS ATTENDED YESTERDAY'S

MEETING." MCNAMARA

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